THE WORD OF FAITH WE PREACH
Rom. 10:8-11

I. Preaching is one of the most mysterious exercises I know.
   A. Why does God leave it with us?
   B. Why do you hear so many sermons?
   C. What do you do with what you hear?
   D. Why isn't it more effective?
   E. What should be preached?

II. I remember Paul's Roman statement about preaching.
   A. We preach the word. About it:
      1. It's nigh thee
         (a) Substance of gospel near & simple
         (b) It's accessible, apprehensible, certain
      2. It's in thy mouth
         (a) We later make confession - we know it's true.
      3. It's in thy heart
         (a) Note how near it is!
         (b) Lipscomb said word finds home in the heart, changes it, & service is lovingly rendered.
         (c) Heart = intellect
      4. It's the word of faith
         (a) Lard says a doctrine in which belief is chief component element.
5. We preach it
   (a) Power in repeated preaching
   (b) Gospel is available to all
   (c) Those who want to can see it

B. What should we preach? To what must we lead people?

Rom. 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess

1. A man must say Jesus Christ is Lord.
   (a) Barclay says Kerrios had 4 stages of meaning
      (1) Normal title of respect like sir, monsieur, heir
      (2) Normal title of Roman emperor
      (3) Normal title of Gk. gods
      (4) In Gk. translation of Hebrew it is a divine name
   (b) To call Jesus Lord gave him a supreme place
      (1) To him you owe reverent worship & implicit obedience.
      (2) We must see Jesus in a relationship different to all other ties.
      (3) As long as we stay saved we keep confessing this.
   (c) He is source of authority, the master

2. A sick lady sent for D. Lipscomb to baptize her. She said "I've believed in Jesus as Savior a long time." On this he baptized her. A bro. objected "You
forgot to take her confession." He ans. "Well, if I did, she didn't forget to make it."

(a) He valued substance above form.

3. To be w/o mouth's confession is to court cowardice.

4. A man must believe in the resurrection of Jesus
(a) Must believe that Jesus lived & lives!
(b) It's not a historical person but a living presence.
(c) Knows both the sacrifice & the conquest of Christ; martyr & victor.
(d) Resurrection demonstrates Christ's accurate claim.
(e) Belief in heart = sincerity.

5. A man must be a witness before men.
(a) It involves his day to day testimony.
(b) This involves his manner of daily living = to confession.
(c) Are you ashamed to confess?
CHARACTERISTICS OF A PASTOR

John 10:11-16

1. Of all tender Bible pictures it's the Shepherd & the Sheep.
   A. It was in the catacombs.
   B. It came from the Scriptures.
Ps. 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd
   (Luther: This simple creature the sheep has this special note among animals, that it quickly hears the voice of the shepherd, follows no one else, depends entirely on him & seeks help from him alone, cannot help itself but is shut up to another's aid.
   C. We see Jesus as the Shepherd.
John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd
   (Repeated in V. 11)
Heb. 13:20 "Now the God of peace that brot
I Pet. 2:25 "For ye were as sheep going

II. It is further seen that he is the Chief Shepherd & he has shepherds serve under Him.
I Pet. 5:1-4 Read.
   A. Those who so serve are pastors.
   B. It is another term for the eldership.
      1. Always a plurality.
      2. Always needed.
      3. Always to be loved and appreciated.

III. If Jesus is chief & men are under Him, what was the example of his shepherding. Let's see how he pastors & we'll know further the qualifications of men today.
   A. John 10:1-5 & 11-16 is our text.
B. From just one chapter we see the following characteristics. (Let men who desire the office check their willingness to so serve as well as those that are whether they are of this mind that also was in Jesus.)

1. He has rightful access to Heavenly places.

V. 2 "He that entereth in by the door
a.) He knows where he is leading.
b.) Porter knows & opens.
c.) Man is utterly faithful to God.
d.) By Christ one honestly came to God.

2. He intimately knows the sheep.

a.) Sheep hear his voice.
b.) "He calleth his own sheep by name" (V. 4) Implies a person.
c.) Significance.
   (1) Not "what's his face."
   (2) "I don't know him."
   (3) Need as many elders till every sheep has a shepherd.
   (4) He understands individual needs.
   (5) Sheep = the timid one.

3. "He leads them out" - V. 3)

a.) Out to pasture.
b.) Out of danger.
c.) Sheep have tendency to wander.

Ps. 119:176 "I have gone astray like a
d.) Always before, in advance, has the moral magnetism to lead.
e.) Life of shepherd hard - little grass in Israel."
f.) He knows your foes.
g.) He feeds them.

Isa. 40:11 "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, he shall gather the lambs with his arms & carry them in his bosom & shall gently lead those that are c young."

4. He goes before them - V. 4.
   a.) He's their example.
   b.) He leads, they follow.
   c.) He does not drive.
   d.) He's a respected & effective leader.
   e.) Courageous goes ahead: it's one thing to react & another to act.
   f.) He guides.
   g.) Sadly, "The hungry sheep look up & are not fed."
   h.) Transparency in his life - bears scrutiny.

5. He knows the sheep & they know him.
V. 4 They know his voice
   a.) They follow him.
   b.) They won't a stranger.
V. 14 "I am the good shepherd & know my sheep & am known of mine.
V. 27 "My sheep hear my voice
   c.) It says "in no way will they follow a stranger"
   d.) Shepherds recognition is personal, sees the various personalities.
   e.) Reciprocal arrangement.
   f.) 4X uses know.
   g.) Know also means approve.
6. He is good V. 5 & 14.
   a.) Excellent, Beautiful.
   b.) Competent.
   c.) Charm, loveliness.
   d.) Highest moral beauty.
   e.) The good one - the adjective is stressed.
   f.) "I am" = God.

7. He's sacrificial.

V. 11 The good shepherd giveth his life
   a.) Naturally he's loved.

V. 17 "Therefore doth my Father love me
   b.) Huper - in behalf of, in our stead. Basically
      upper or over - your body takes the blow - a
      substitute, for the sake of.
   c.) Shepherds death meant life to the sheep.
   d.) Pours himself out.
   e.) He's ever faithful.
   f.) He died voluntarily.
   g.) He stands in time of danger.

8. He cares.

V. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is
   a.) Sheep battle robbers & thieves.
   b.) All who profess to take Christ's place are
      robbers.
   c.) Hireling does not care for flock but for the
      fleece. He feels no concern.

Jer. 50:6 "My people hath been lost sheep: their she
   d.) Feels sheep are not his anyway.

Jer. 23:1 "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy & s
   e.) Bernard, "Had I some of the blood poured out
on the cross how carefully would I carry it!
Ought I not be as careful of those souls for
whom it was shed."
Zech. 11:17 "Woe to the idle shepherd that leaveth
Ezek. 34:1-2 (Read)
IV. Wouldn't you like the Lord to lead you into the
One fold.
West End 4-18-82
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Borchers - Restored
Mrs. Dorothy Callender - Restored
THE JOY OF PREACHING

I. In reality they are too numerous to mention and the list would be endless in its complimentation.

II. I will list a few.
A. We serve one who never makes a mistake—what other "business" can make such a statement?
B. Under God you will have many others that "supervise" your work.
   1. Elders
   2. The congregation.
   3. Special needs of those who call early and late.
   4. The public—ever notices a preacher.
C. Your message is truthful, infallible, eternal if you stay with the word.
   1. Advice is faulty.
   2. It's also tempting.
   3. Bible however is without error.
D. You will work with all classes of people.
   1. No caste systems as in India.
   3. Refined and devoid of social graces.
E. You will be challenged—only a 20 minute sermon—everybody except the wise will think they can do your work as well as you do it.
F. You will run the gamut of all emotions—from sadness to successes.
G. You can pillow your head knowing because of today you've made the world a little better and church a bit stronger.

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